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Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 23 (see A/65/439, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 21st and 30th meetings, on 28 October and 22 November 2010. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/65/SR.21 and 30).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/65/L.8 and A/C.2/65/L.47

2. At the 21st meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Yemen, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/65/L.8), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/65/439 and Add.1 and 2.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007, 63/228 of 19 December 2008 and 64/214 of 21 December 2009,

"*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Recalling further* the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,

"*Recalling* the Almaty Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

"*Recalling further* the Ezulwini Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in the Kingdom of Swaziland on 21 and 22 October 2009,

"*Taking note* of the Communiqué of the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 2010,

"*Recognizing* that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

"*Expressing its concern* that inadequate transport infrastructure development and the deterioration of existing transport infrastructure remain a major obstacle to trade, while telecommunication and energy infrastructure is still insufficient and unreliable,

"*Expressing support* to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

"*Reaffirming* that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all

means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

"3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

"4. *Further reaffirms* its full commitment to address urgently the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in its Declaration on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"5. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized from international trade and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems which prevent them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"6. *Invites* Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, multilateral financial and development institutions and bilateral partners to speed up further implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review in order to support the landlocked developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"7. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

"8. *Expresses its concern* that the geographical disadvantage of landlocked developing countries makes them vulnerable to external shocks, as recently evidenced by the impact of the global economic and financial crisis, which led to a reduction in export demand, falling commodity prices, trade financing difficulties, the contraction of investment flows, an increase in protectionism and a heightened risk of reduction in official aid flows, and invites the international community to provide new, additional and predictable development assistance to help landlocked developing countries to strengthen their resilience and protect the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

"9. *Recognizes* that the least developed members of the group of landlocked developing countries continue to face significant constraints in their development efforts owing to structural handicaps and impediments, and calls upon the international community to take concrete steps to address their special development needs and challenges in order to enable them to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"10. *Also recognizes* that climate change is having a negative impact on landlocked developing countries, including through land degradation, desertification and deforestation, decreased availability of food and water, and destruction of the transport infrastructure, and urges development partners to provide financial, technological and capacity-building assistance to enable landlocked developing countries to address the challenges presented by climate change, in particular by putting in place effective adaptation strategies as a priority and appropriate mitigation actions, as well as by providing a special climate change financing facility for landlocked developing countries;

"11. *Further recognizes* the challenges presented by land degradation, desertification, deforestation and climate change, the negative impact that they have on each other, and the potential benefits of mutually addressing those problems and their impact on the availability of food and water and in terms of the destruction of transport infrastructure, and calls on the international community to continue to enhance support for the efforts of the landlocked developing countries to adapt to the adverse impact of climate change;

"12. *Encourages* the pertinent international organizations including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional commissions, and other relevant research institutions to assist the landlocked developing countries to conduct studies to better understand the implications of climate change for landlocked developing countries and to develop measures to counter its adverse effects;

"13. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communication and energy infrastructure, so as to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

"14. *Underscores* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations on trade facilitation are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Development Round contains binding commitments ensuring freedom of transit and exemptions from, or reduced, transit charges as well as the expedited movement, release and clearance of goods, with the ultimate objective of lowering transaction costs, inter alia by reducing transport time, and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

"15. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively operationalize the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of the landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations, implementation of trade facilitation measures, implementation of international agreements, investment in infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, and utilities and strengthening of productive capacities with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

"16. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities and that their exports are not high-value, and urges the international community to help the landlocked developing countries to diversify their economic base, facilitate access to and encourage the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology, and enhance value addition to their exports through development of their productive capacities;

"17. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and, in that context, recognizes that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders;

"18. *Underscores* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, as well as its key role in providing infrastructure for transport, telecommunications and utilities, and calls on capital-exporting countries to provide greater financial assistance and support to foreign direct investment-seeking efforts of landlocked developing countries by adopting and implementing economic, financial and legal incentives to encourage foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries;

"19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations, and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, inter alia, through well-

coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

"20. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the regional commissions to provide infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks, and to strengthen the legal frameworks of landlocked developing and transit developing countries, and in that regard, notes with appreciation the continuing efforts being made by the United Nations;

"21. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts directed towards raising international awareness and mobilizing resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

"22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in Ulaanbaatar to enhance analytical capability within landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, in that regard, also welcomes the endorsement of the final text of the draft multilateral agreement on the establishment of the international think tank for landlocked developing countries by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, and urges donors, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant international and regional organizations to assist the landlocked developing countries in achieving the objectives of the international think tank;

"23. *Encourages* development partners and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

"24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

"25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled 'Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and

Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation'."

3. At its 30th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/65/L.47), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.8.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.47 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the 30th meeting, the Rapporteur made a statement in the course of which he orally corrected paragraph 12 of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/65/SR.30).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.47, as orally corrected (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.47, draft resolution A/C.2/65/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006, 62/204 of 19 December 2007, 63/228 of 19 December 2008 and 64/214 of 21 December 2009,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recalling further the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome,[2]

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[3] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 63/2 of 3 October 2008, by which it adopted the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Taking note of the Ezulwini Declaration adopted at the Third Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Swaziland on 21 and 22 October 2009,

Taking note also of the communiqué of the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 2010,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on the export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 65/1.

[3] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[4] Ibid., annex I.

Expressing its concern that inadequate transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructures remain a major obstacle to trade and inhibit growth in landlocked developing countries,

Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with the landlocked and transit developing countries,

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries to take all appropriate measures, as set out in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action,[6] to speed up the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and calls upon the landlocked developing countries to take greater ownership of the Almaty Programme of Action by further mainstreaming it into their national development strategies;

5. *Calls upon* development partners and multilateral and regional financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better-coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans, for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

6. *Reaffirms* its full commitment to urgently address the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action,[4] as contained in its Declaration on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;[6]

7. *Acknowledges* that landlocked and transit developing countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America have strengthened their policy and governance

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[5] A/65/215.

[6] Resolution 63/2.

reform efforts and that development partners, including international financial and development institutions, have paid greater attention to the establishment of efficient transit systems;

8. *Notes with concern* that, despite the progress made in implementing the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized from international trade and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems which prevent them from fully harnessing the potential of trade as an engine of sustained economic growth and development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Invites* Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, multilateral financial and development institutions and bilateral partners to speed up further implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review in order to support the landlocked developing countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communication and energy infrastructure, so as to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

10. *Expresses concern* that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, and invites the international community to assist landlocked developing countries in strengthening their resilience and protecting the advances made towards the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action;

11. *Recognizes* the challenges presented by land degradation, desertification, deforestation and climate change, the negative impact that they have on one another and the potential benefits of mutually addressing those problems and their impact on the availability of food and water, and calls on the international community to continue to enhance support for the efforts of the landlocked developing countries to address these challenges in an integrated manner, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions and pertinent international organizations, to assist the landlocked developing countries, as appropriate, to conduct studies in order to provide a better understanding of the implications of climate change for landlocked developing countries and to make recommendations in that regard;

13. *Underlines* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Almaty Programme of Action, notes that the ongoing

negotiations of the World Trade Organization on trade facilitation are particularly important for landlocked developing countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and calls upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfils the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade;

14. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of the landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products through private-sector involvement, including the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets;

15. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, and encourages the international community to enhance efforts to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base, encourage, on mutually agreed terms, the transfer of technologies related to transit transport systems, including information and communications technology, and enhance value addition to their exports through development of their productive capacities;

16. *Encourages* the further strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as cooperation among subregional and regional organizations, in support of the efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

17. *Recognizes* that broader and more effective cooperation among landlocked developing countries and between landlocked and transit developing countries is necessary to ensure a harmonized approach to the design, implementation and monitoring of trade and transport facilitation policy reforms across borders;

18. *Underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, and recognizes the considerable role and potential of private-sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the Declaration on the midterm review, and encourages them to continue, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, their support to the landlocked and transit developing countries, through, inter alia, well-coordinated and coherent technical assistance programmes in transit transport and trade facilitation;

20. *Welcomes* the efforts made by development partners and the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, in providing infrastructure development and connectivity and the integration of regional rail and road networks, and in strengthening the legal frameworks of landlocked developing and transit developing countries;

21. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts directed towards raising international awareness and mobilizing resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

22. *Welcomes* the progress made since the establishment of the international think tank for the landlocked developing countries in Ulaanbaatar to enhance analytical capability within landlocked developing countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Millennium Development Goals, takes note, in that regard, of the endorsement of the multilateral agreement on the establishment of the international think tank for landlocked developing countries by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, and invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, Member States, and relevant international and regional organizations, to assist the landlocked developing countries in implementing the activities of the international think tank;

23. *Encourages* development partners, including international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;[3]

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the Declaration on the midterm review;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".